

A gentle introduction to quantum complexity theory¹

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¹https://groups.uni-paderborn.de/fg-gi/courses/UPB_QCOMPLEXITY/2020/UPB_QCOMPLEXITY_syllabus.html for course notes/Youtube videos

Goal



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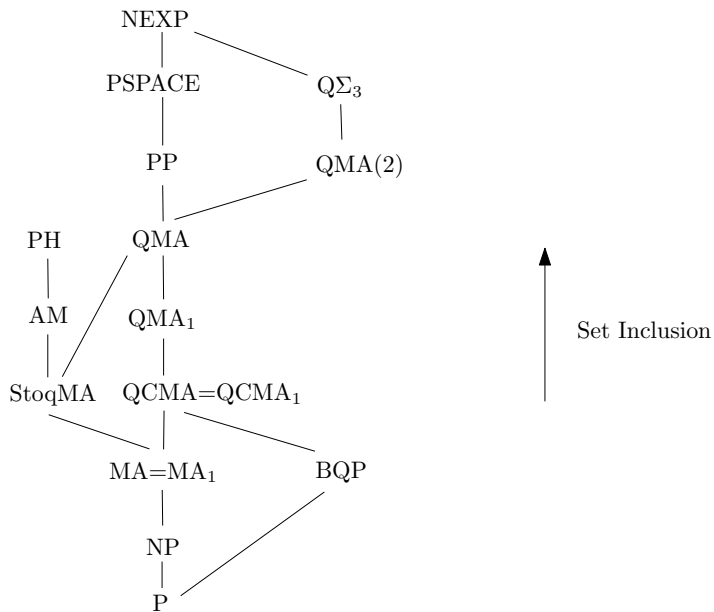
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High-level steps:

- 1 Formal model for computation
- 2 Complexity theory within this model (classical and quantum)

Preview



Outline

- 1 Classical complexity theory
 - The computational model
 - Decision problems, P, and NP
 - Reductions and NP-hardness
- 2 BQP
 - Circuit families and BQP
 - A BQP-complete problem: MI
 - $MI \in BQP$
 - MI is BQP-hard
- 3 QMA
- 4 Kitaev's "quantum Cook-Levin theorem" for QMA
- 5 Beyond QMA: The many flavors of "quantum NP"

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- Instructor: Do you even know what n is?

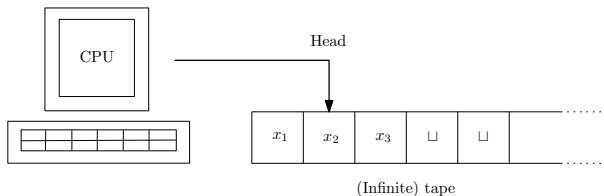
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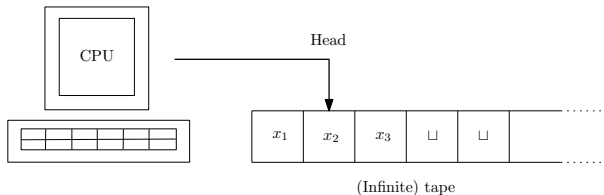


Turing machine (TM)



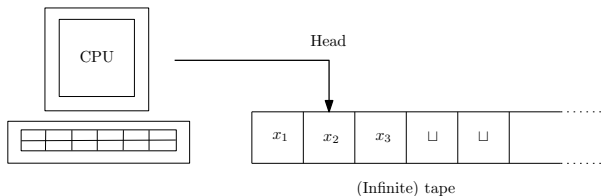
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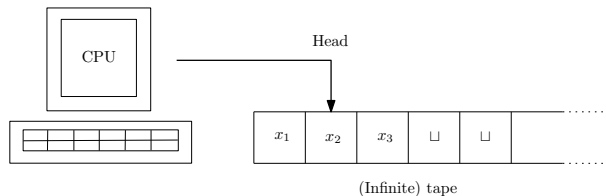
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- **What is n ?** Input size, i.e. $x \in \{0, 1\}^n$.

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- **Church-Turing thesis:**

If there exists a mechanical process for computing function $f : \{0, 1\}^* \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^*$, then there exists a Turing machine computing f .

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- Formally,

$$A_{\text{yes}} = \{(x, y, t) \in \mathbb{Z}^3 \mid xy \leq t\}, \quad A_{\text{no}} = \{0, 1\}^* \setminus A_{\text{yes}}.$$

Polynomial-Time (P)

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Decision problem $A = (A_{\text{yes}}, A_{\text{no}})$ is in P if there exists TM M and **polynomial** p , such that for any input $x \in \{0, 1\}^n$, M halts in at most $O(p(n))$ steps and:

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- Aside: Fastest multiplication algorithm is $O(n \log n)$ [Harvey, van der Hoeven, 2019].

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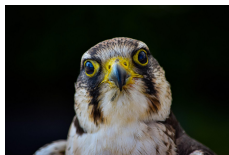
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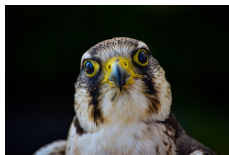
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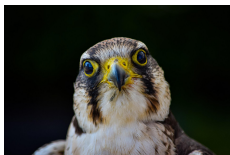
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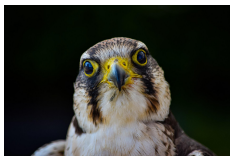
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Bonus: In contrast to FACTOR, checking if x has *any* non-trivial factor is in P [Agrawal, Kayal, Saxena 2002]

Sanity check



Why isn't the naive brute force algorithm poly-time?

Input: $(x, t) \in \mathbb{Z}^2$

Output: Factor $y \in \mathbb{Z}$ of x with $y \leq t$, if one exists

- 1 Set $k = 2$
- 2 While $(k < t)$
 - a) If $x \bmod k = 0$ then return k
 - b) $k = k + 1$
- 3 Return "no factor found"

Runtime: \approx num loop iterations $O(x)$.

Exercise 1: Why is this not poly-time?

Non-deterministic Polynomial-Time (NP)

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Observe: $P \subseteq NP$.

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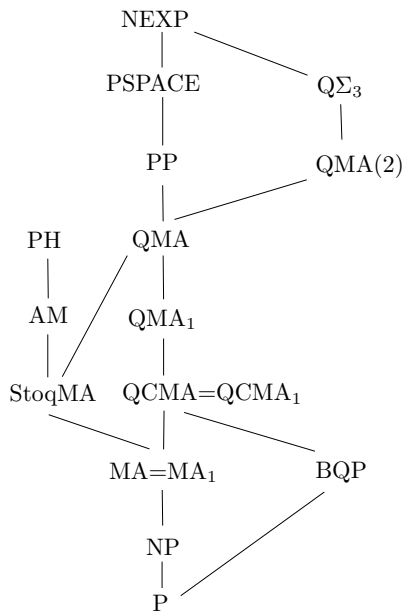
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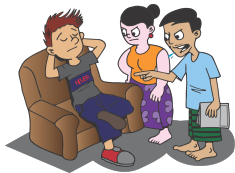
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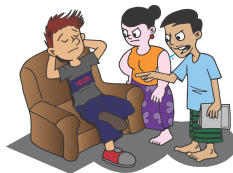
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(Many-one) reduction

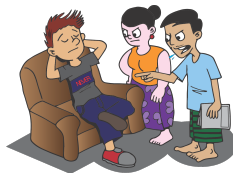
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If M runs in poly-time, we say the reduction is poly-time, and write $A \leq_p B$.

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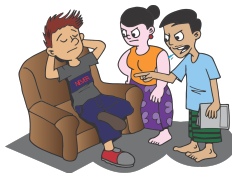
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- **Implication:** If $A \leq_p B$, then if $B \in P \Rightarrow A \in P$.
- **Exercise 2:** Show that MULTIPLY reduces to $\text{ADD} = \{(x_1, \dots, x_k, t) \in \mathbb{Z}^{k+1} \mid k \geq 0 \text{ and } \sum_{i=1}^k x_i \leq t\}$.
Is your reduction poly-time?

NP-complete problems



“Strongest/hardest” problems in NP

Formally:

- $B = (B_{\text{yes}}, B_{\text{no}})$ is **NP-hard** if for **all** $A = (A_{\text{yes}}, A_{\text{no}}) \in \text{NP}$, $A \leq_p B$.
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- B is **NP-complete** if B is NP-hard **and** $B \in \text{NP}$.
 - ▶ Implication: B “characterizes” the power of NP.
- **Cook-Levin Theorem:** 3-SAT is NP-complete [Cook 1971, Levin 1973]

3-SAT

Input: Boolean formula $\phi : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ in “3-Conjunctive Normal Form (3-CNF)”, e.g.

$$\phi = (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee \bar{x}_3) \wedge (x_4 \vee \bar{x}_1 \vee \bar{x}_9) \cdots (\bar{x}_1 \vee x_5 \vee \bar{x}_2)$$

Output: Is there a “satisfying assignment”, i.e. $\exists x \in \{0, 1\}^n$ such that $\phi(x) = 1$?

Exercise 3: Show that 3-SAT is NP-hard even if each variable x_i appears at most 3 times in ϕ .

Exercise 4: What is the complexity of 3-SAT if each variable x_i appears **exactly** 3 times in ϕ ? (Hint: Google “Hall’s marriage theorem”.)

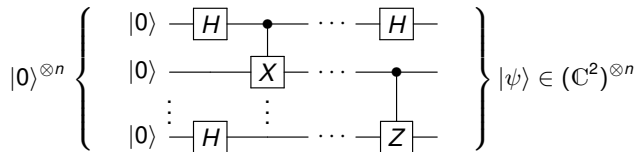
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Quantumly: Work with $\text{poly}(n)$ -size quantum circuit implementing n -qubit unitaries U , e.g.



What happened to our beloved TMs?

The computational model

What computational model to use for quantum complexity theory?

- **Idea 1:** Use “quantum Turing machines”...



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If the poly-size circuit is hard to find, not very useful for solving problems ☺

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- ▶ **Solution:** Use “poly-time uniformly generated” circuits.

Remark: All quantum circuits in this lecture are sequences of 1- and 2-qubit gates.

P-uniform quantum circuit family

A family of quantum circuits $\{Q_n\}$ is **P-uniform** if there exists a poly-time TM M , which given as input 1^n , outputs a classical description of Q_n via a sequence of 1- and 2-qubit gates.

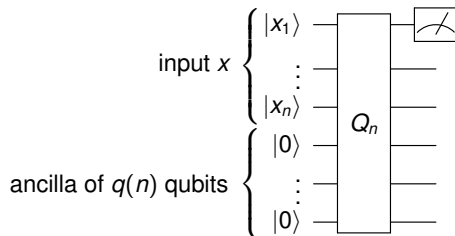
Exercise 6: Why does M get 1^n as input, instead of n written in binary?

Henceforth: Use P-uniform quantum circuit families, not TMs.

Bounded-error quantum polynomial-time (BQP)

Promise problem $\mathbb{A} = (A_{\text{yes}}, A_{\text{no}}, A_{\text{inv}}) \in \text{BQP}$ if \exists **P-uniform quantum circuit family** $\{Q_n\}$ and polynomial q as below. The first output qubit of Q_n is measured in the standard basis and returned. For any input $x \in \{0, 1\}^*$:

- (YES case) If $x \in A_{\text{yes}}$, then Q_n outputs 1 with **probability** at least $2/3$.
- (NO case) If $x \in A_{\text{no}}$, then Q_n outputs 1 with **probability** at most $1/3$.
- (**Invalid case**) If $x \in A_{\text{inv}}$, Q_n outputs 0 or 1 arbitrarily.



Caution



Quantum complexity classes typically **promise** classes

²Best strategy: Run circuit in parallel, take majority vote of output answers, apply Chernoff bound.

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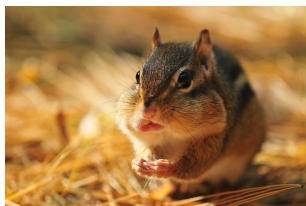


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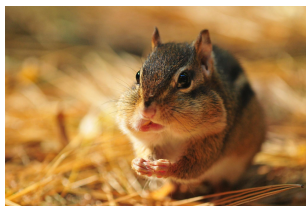
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 - ▶ **Intuition:** $\text{poly}(n)$ runs of quantum circuit cannot distinguish² YES vs NO thresholds like

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- ▶ **Exercise 7:** Chernoff bound has “exponential scaling”. Why does it not suffice above?

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The Pikachu of BQP

Linear system solving:

- Input: Invertible $A \in \mathbb{C}^{N \times N}$ and target vector $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{C}^N$
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- A represented “succinctly” via “query-access” and \mathbf{b} given via quantum circuit?

Matrix inversion problem (MI)

Input:

- $O(1)$ -sparse row-computable invertible Hermitian matrix³ $A \in \mathbb{C}^{N \times N}$
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Hamiltonian simulation [Low, Chuang 2017]

Given d -sparse H , simulation time $t \geq 0$, and $\epsilon > 0$, can simulate e^{iHt} up to error ϵ and success probability at least $1 - 2\epsilon$ in time^a

$$O\left(td \|H\|_{\max} + \frac{\log(1/\epsilon)}{\log \log(1/\epsilon)}\right).$$

^aQuery complexity. Gate complexity has $O(n)$ overhead.

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Given precision k , and ability to efficiently compute controlled- U^{2^K} for $1 \leq K \leq k$, can map

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$$|0^k\rangle|\psi_j\rangle \mapsto |\tilde{\lambda}_j\rangle|\psi_j\rangle \quad \Rightarrow \quad |0^k\rangle \sum_j \alpha_j |\psi_j\rangle \mapsto \sum_j \alpha_j |\tilde{\lambda}_j\rangle |\psi_j\rangle,$$

where $\tilde{\lambda}_j$ is λ_j up to k bits.

Exercise 9a: Given n -qubit unitary U , can we efficiently compute U^{2^n} in general?

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$$|b\rangle = \sum_{j=1}^N \alpha_j |\psi_j\rangle \in \mathbb{C}^N,$$

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Exercise 9b: Google “condition number”, learn about it.

Exercise 10: Assume $\|A\|_\infty = 1$. Show $1/\kappa(A) \leq 1/(\lambda_j \kappa(A)) \leq 1$. Thus, amplitudes above well-defined.

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Step 3: Eigenvalue reinsertion

- Measure third register in standard basis, postselect on outcome 1, discard third register:

$$\sum_{j=1}^N \alpha_j \left(\frac{1}{\lambda_j} \right) |\psi_j\rangle \propto A^{-1} |b\rangle \in \mathbb{C}^N.$$

Exercise 11. Prove that probability of obtaining outcome 1 is at least $1/\kappa^2(A)$.

Exercise 12. What is the expected number of repetitions for postselection to succeed? Can we improve this with amplitude amplification?

Runtime

If we run QPE to get additive inverse poly error for phases, runtime is

$$\tilde{O}(\kappa(A)(T_b + s^2 \log^2(N)))$$

for T_b the number of gates to prepare $|b\rangle$, N the dimension of A , and $\log N$ the number of qubits.

Implication:

- When $\kappa(A)$, T_b , $s \in \text{polylog}(N)$, exponentially faster than classically solving the entire $N \times N$ system.
- For definition of MI, suffices to obtain $\text{MI} \in \text{BQP}$.

Exercise 13.** Although the quantum algorithm can give exponential speedups, why is it incorrect to directly compare it to classical linear system solvers?

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Goal: Show that any BQP computation V poly-time reducible to an instance A of MI.

Starting point: Let $V = V_m \cdots V_1$ be a BQP circuit on n qubits, $N = 2^n$. Assume WLOG m is power of 2.

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- Define:

$$U = \sum_{t=0}^{m-1} |t+1\rangle\langle t| \otimes V_{t+1} + \sum_{t=m}^{2m-1} |t+1 \bmod 2m\rangle\langle t| \otimes V_{2m-t}^\dagger \in \mathcal{U}((\mathbb{C}^2)^{\otimes \log m} \otimes (\mathbb{C}^2)^{\otimes n}),$$

Exercise 12: Check that U is unitary.

Exercise 13: Check that $U^m |0^{\log m}\rangle |0^n\rangle = |m\rangle V |0^n\rangle$.

Implication: Measuring first qubit of second register of $U^m |0^{\log m}\rangle |0^n\rangle$ simulates measuring output qubit of V !

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Exercise 15: I cheated less slightly somewhere else on this slide. Where did I make a bigger boo boo?

Final exercises for MI

Construction *almost* works, but for 3 issues to check:

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- 4 I cheated again. There is a 4th issue — A must be Hermitian. But I will spare you these details.

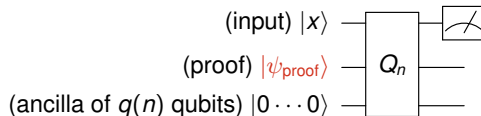
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Quantum Merlin-Arthur (QMA)

Promise problem $\mathbb{A} = (A_{\text{yes}}, A_{\text{no}}, A_{\text{inv}}) \in \text{QMA}$ if \exists P-uniform quantum circuit family $\{Q_n\}$ and polynomials p, q :

- (YES case) If $x \in A_{\text{yes}}$, \exists **proof** $|\psi_{\text{proof}}\rangle \in (\mathbb{C}^2)^{\otimes p(n)}$, such that Q_n accepts with probability at least $2/3$.
- (NO case) If $x \in A_{\text{no}}$, then \forall **proofs** $|\psi_{\text{proof}}\rangle \in (\mathbb{C}^2)^{\otimes p(n)}$, Q_n accepts with probability at most $1/3$.
- (Invalid case) If $x \in A_{\text{inv}}$, Q_n may accept or reject arbitrarily.



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Weak error reduction (the “obvious” type)

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Obstacle: No-cloning theorem says we cannot *copy* $|\psi_{\text{proof}}\rangle$...



Marriot-Watrous strong error reduction

- Set $i = 0$.
- Do while $i \leq N$:
 - ▶ (Run verification Q_n) Run Q_n and measure output qubit to obtain bit y_i . Set $i = i + 1$.
 - ▶ (Run Q_n in reverse) Run Q_n^\dagger and measure whether input “resets” to x and ancillae to $|0 \cdots 0\rangle$. If yes, set $y_i = 1$, else set $y_i = 0$. Set $i = i + 1$.
- (Postprocessing) If the number of indices $i \in \{0, \dots, N - 1\}$ such that $y_i = y_{i+1}$ is at least $N/2$, accept. Otherwise, reject.

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Remember this?

(Time-independent) Schrödinger equation

Time evolution of any n -qubit system governed by Hermitian matrix $H \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbb{C}^2)^{\otimes n}$, called a **Hamiltonian**:

$$i \frac{d|\psi\rangle}{dt} = H|\psi\rangle \xrightarrow{\text{solve}} |\psi_t\rangle = e^{-iHt}|\psi_0\rangle \quad (\leftarrow \text{unitary!})$$



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Question: What kind of Hamiltonians H appear in nature?

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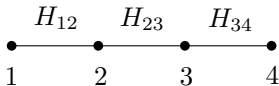
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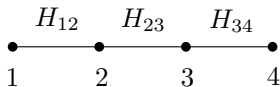
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Then, $H = H_{12} \otimes I_{34} + I_1 \otimes H_{23} \otimes I_4 + I_{12} \otimes H_{34} \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbb{C}^{16})$.

Quantum constraint satisfaction

k -local Hamiltonian problem (k -LH)

- Input: k -local Hamiltonian H on n qubits, thresholds $0 \leq \alpha \leq \beta$ s.t. $|\alpha - \beta| \geq 1/\text{poly}(n)$
 - Promise: $\lambda_{\min}(H) \leq \alpha$ or $\lambda_{\min}(H) \geq \beta$
 - Output: Decide whether $\lambda_{\min}(H) \leq \alpha$ or $\lambda_{\min}(H) \geq \beta$
-
- Canonical QMA-complete problem!
 - Motivation: Show superfluid helium video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Z6UJbwxBZI>

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- QMA-hard for $|\alpha - \beta| \in \Omega(1)$?



Quantum PCP conjecture! (see [Aharonov, Arad, Vidick, 2013] for survey)

Kitaev's quantum Cook-Levin theorem

Goal: Map U to instance $(H, \alpha, \beta, |\psi\rangle)$ of LH such that $\beta - \alpha \geq 1/\text{poly}(n)$ and

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- Let $U = U_m \cdots U_1$ be a QMA circuit verifying proof $|\psi_{\text{proof}}\rangle$.
- Design local terms H_i to force ground state to be **history state**:

$$|\psi_{\text{hist}}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{m+1}} \sum_{t=0}^m U_t \cdots U_1 |\psi_{\text{proof}}\rangle_A |0 \cdots 0\rangle_B |t\rangle_C$$

A: proof register **B:** ancilla register **C:** clock register

Feynman-Kitaev circuit-to-Hamiltonian construction

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Question: How to check time propagation, i.e. U_t applied at time t ?

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Correctness

Completeness: By design,

$$\langle \psi_{\text{hist}} | H_{\text{in}} + H_{\text{prop}} + H_{\text{out}} + H_{\text{stab}} | \psi_{\text{hist}} \rangle \sim 0 + 0 + 0 + \frac{1 - \Pr(U \text{ accepts } x)}{\text{poly}(m)} \sim \text{"small"}.$$

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Soundness:

- **Goal:** Show $\lambda_{\min}(H_{\text{in}} + H_{\text{prop}} + H_{\text{out}} + H_{\text{stab}}) \geq \text{“large”}$.
- **Problem:** $H_{\text{in}} + H_{\text{out}}$ and H_{prop} do not commute (i.e. cannot add $\lambda_{\min}(H_{\text{in}} + H_{\text{out}})$ and $\lambda_{\min}(H_{\text{prop}})$)!

Geometric Lemma

Let $A_1, A_2 \succeq 0$, and let ν lower bound the minimum **non-zero** eigenvalues of both A_1 and A_2 . Then,

$$\lambda_{\min}(A_1 + A_2) \geq 2\nu \sin^2 \frac{\angle(\text{Null}(A_1), \text{Null}(A_2))}{2},$$

where the **angle** between spaces \mathcal{X} and \mathcal{Y} is defined as

$$\angle(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}) := \arccos \left(\max_{\substack{|\mathbf{x}\rangle \in \mathcal{X}, |\mathbf{y}\rangle \in \mathcal{Y} \\ \|\mathbf{x}\|_2 = \|\mathbf{y}\|_2 = 1}} |\langle \mathbf{x} | \mathbf{y} \rangle| \right).$$

Recall:

- $\text{Null}(H_{\text{in}} + H_{\text{out}})$ - correct initialization and correct input
- $\text{Null}(H_{\text{prop}})$ - correct time propagation

Outline

- 1 Classical complexity theory
 - The computational model
 - Decision problems, P, and NP
 - Reductions and NP-hardness
- 2 BQP
 - Circuit families and BQP
 - A BQP-complete problem: MI
 - $MI \in BQP$
 - MI is BQP-hard
- 3 QMA
- 4 Kitaev's "quantum Cook-Levin theorem" for QMA
- 5 Beyond QMA: The many flavors of "quantum NP"

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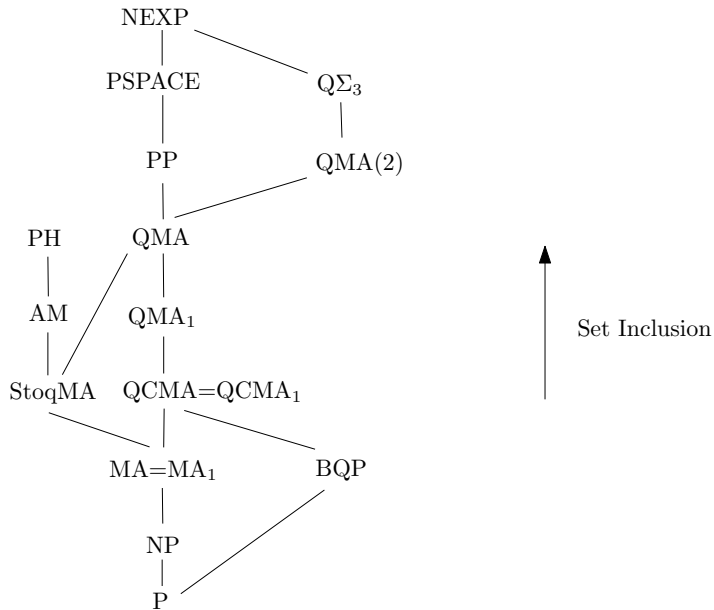
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- (Dopey) StoqMA: QMA with $\{|0\rangle, |+\rangle\}$ ancillae, classical gates, measurement in X basis

Relationships



QMA(2)

What does an “unentangled” proof $|\psi_1\rangle \otimes |\psi_2\rangle$ buy us?

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Promise problem $\mathbb{A} = (A_{\text{yes}}, A_{\text{no}}, A_{\text{inv}}) \in \text{QMA}(2)$ if there exists P-uniform quantum circuit family $\{Q_n\}$ s.t.:

- (YES) If $x \in A_{\text{yes}}$, \exists proof $|\psi_1\rangle \otimes |\psi_2\rangle \in (\mathbb{C}^2)^{\otimes \text{poly}(n)} \otimes (\mathbb{C}^2)^{\otimes \text{poly}(n)}$, s.t. Q_n accepts w.p. $\geq 2/3$.
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Defined as $\text{QMA}(k)$ for k parties by [Kobayashi, Matsumoto, Yamakami 2003]

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It's 2022. What's the holdup?

Apples to apples

For both classes:

$$\Pr(Q_n \text{ accepts } |\psi\rangle) = \text{Tr} \left(|1\rangle\langle 1|_{A_1} \otimes I_B (Q_n |\psi\rangle_A |0 \dots 0\rangle_B) (\langle \psi|_A \langle 0 \dots 0|_B Q_n^\dagger) \right)$$

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Complexity	poly-time in dimension of M_{acc}	NP-complete ⁵ dimension of M_{acc}

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Open question: Why does “unentanglement” help compress proof lengths?

Relationship to Quantum NPSPACE

- **Classically:** $PSPACE = NPSPACE$ [Savitch, 1970]
- **Quantumly:**
 - ▶ $PSPACE = BQPSPACE$ [Watrous 2003]
 - ▶ $QMASPACE = BQPSPACE$ [Fefferman, Remscrem 2021]

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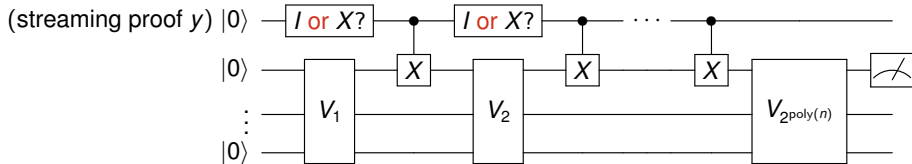
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 - ★ QMASPACE is “quantum NPSPACE” with *poly*-size *quantum* proof
 - ★ **Problem:** NPSPACE requires *exponential* length proof!

Question: How to define “Quantum NPSPACE” with exp-length proof?

Streaming QCMASPACE (SQCMASPACE)

Promise problem $A = (A_{\text{yes}}, A_{\text{no}}) \in \text{SQCMASPACE}$ if there exists a poly-time succinctly generated quantum circuit family $\{Q_n\}$, thresholds α, β satisfying $\alpha - \beta \geq 2^{-\text{poly}(n)}$ s.t.:

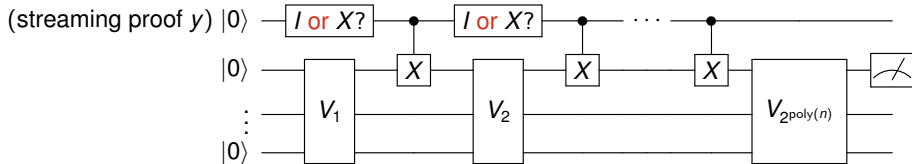
- (YES case) If $x \in A_{\text{yes}}$, \exists **classical streaming** proof $y \in \{0, 1\}^{2^{\text{poly}(n)}}$, s.t. Q_n accepts with probability $\geq \alpha$.
- (NO case) If $x \in A_{\text{no}}$, \forall **classical streaming** proofs $y \in \{0, 1\}^{2^{\text{poly}(n)}}$, Q_n accepts with probability $\leq \beta$.



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- $\text{SQCMASPACE} = \text{NEXP}$, even with 1 vs 1/2 promise gap [G, Rudolph, 2022]
- **Question:** Embed **exp**-length streaming proofs into **poly**-size history state construction?

Recall: Circuit-to-Hamiltonian construction for QMA

$$|\psi_{\text{hist}}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{m+1}} \sum_{t=0}^m U_t \cdots U_1 |\psi_{\text{proof}}\rangle_A |0 \cdots 0\rangle_B |t\rangle_C$$

Define $H = H_{\text{in}} + H_{\text{out}} + H_{\text{prop}} + H_{\text{stab}}$ such that

H_{in} :	Correct ancilla initialization at time $t = 0$	\Rightarrow	$\langle \psi_{\text{hist}} H_{\text{in}} \psi_{\text{hist}} \rangle = 0$
H_{prop} :	Gate U_t applied at time t	\Rightarrow	$\langle \psi_{\text{hist}} H_{\text{prop}} \psi_{\text{hist}} \rangle = 0$
H_{stab} :	Clock register C encoded correctly in unary	\Rightarrow	$\langle \psi_{\text{hist}} H_{\text{out}} \psi_{\text{hist}} \rangle = 0$
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Define for each $t \in \{0, \dots, m-1\}$:

$$H_{\text{prop},t}^{U_t} = -U_t \otimes |t\rangle\langle t-1|_C - U_t^\dagger \otimes |t-1\rangle\langle t|_C + I \otimes |t-1\rangle\langle t-1|_C + I \otimes |t\rangle\langle t|_C,$$

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Problem: Need to know each gate U_t in **advance**. But “proof gates” *a priori* unknown.

Using history states to encode the future

$$H^U := -U \otimes |t\rangle\langle t-1|_C - U^\dagger \otimes |t-1\rangle\langle t|_C + I \otimes |t-1\rangle\langle t-1|_C + I \otimes |t\rangle\langle t|_C.$$

Idea [G, Rudolph, 2022]: Use “unentanglement”, i.e. try to force prover to send $|\psi_{\text{hist}}\rangle \otimes |\psi_{\text{hist}}\rangle$.

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Thought experiment: Imagine parallel universes L and R , s.t. L streams 0, R streams 1.

round	L	R
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3		1
4	0	
5		1

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Why?

$$(H_L^I \otimes H_R^X)|\psi\rangle_L \otimes |\phi\rangle_R = 0 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad H_L^I|\psi\rangle = 0 \quad \text{OR} \quad H_R^X|\phi\rangle = 0.$$

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- Gives intuitive explanation as to **why** unentanglement helps!

Full construction

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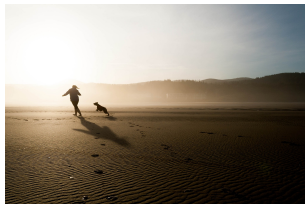
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- **With more work:** Can encode any multi-prover interactive proof into QMA(2), but promise gap scales $1/\text{exp}$ with communication length
- **Upshot:** First systematic “compression” of long proofs into small history states, but does **not** yet resolve QMA(2) versus NEXP (our construction requires $1/\text{exp}$ gap for QMA(2) to capture NEXP).

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- Quantumly, we use uniformly generated circuit families
- Matrix Inversion is BQP-complete
- Local Hamiltonian problem is QMA-complete
- Kitaev's quantum Cook-Levin theorem: Embed computation into low-energy history state
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Thank you and happy quantuming!